

What is claimed is:

1. A service allocating device in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and a setting which can be modified from outside are connected, comprising:

10 a unit obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;

a unit specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service; and

15 a unit converting a setting content of the network service received by the first device and requested for the first device, to a setting content to which the second device can respond, and setting the setting content obtained by the conversion in the second device; which

20 performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network service by the first device, according to the network service request received by the first device.

25 2. The service allocating device according to claim 1, further comprising:

a service setting storing unit storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and

5 a service competition calculating unit checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based on information stored in the service setting storing section, adjusting the competition relation, and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond
10 to the network service to be provided.

3. The service allocating device according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a priority route selecting unit selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network, and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and

20 a route comparison unit comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting unit.

25 4. The service allocating device according to claim 3,

further comprising

a route setting generating unit determining a communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained
5 by the route comparison section,

which

performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined by the route setting generating unit.

10

5. The service allocating device according to claim 2,
further comprising:

a service stoppage request generating unit obtaining information about a network service provision
15 state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information, and generating a service stoppage request;

20 a service setting storing unit storing a plurality of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service that existed before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

25 a service competition calculating unit calculating a service competition relation that is

modified by the detected provision stoppage of the network service according to both the service stoppage request and storage information of the service setting storing section.

5

6. A service allocating method in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and a setting of which can be modified from outside are connected, comprising:

- (a) obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;
- (b) specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service; and
- (c) converting a setting content of the network service received by the first device and requested for the first device, to a setting content to which the second device can respond; and
- 20 (d) setting a setting content obtained by the conversion in the second device; which

25 performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network service by the first device, according to the network

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service request received by the first device.

7. The service allocating method according to claim 6,
further comprising:

5 (e) storing setting contents of the first and
second devices, which respond to previous network
services; and

(f) checking a competition relation between
network service requests from a plurality of users based
10 on storage information in step (e), adjusting the
competition relation and determining the setting
contents of the first and second devices so as to respond
to a network service to be provided.

15 8. The service allocating method according to claim 6,
further comprising:

(g) selecting a device for providing a higher
function of a requested network service, of the first
and second devices which are connected to the network,
20 and determining a communications route through which
the selected devices are connected; and

(h) comparing a communications route used prior
to a new network service request with a communications
route determined by the priority route selecting
25 section.

9. The service allocating method according to claim 8,
further comprising:

(i) determining a communications route suitable
5 for provision of the new network service based on a
comparison result obtained by the route comparing
section,

which

performs control so that the new network service
10 can be provided, using a communications route determined
in step (i).

10. The service allocating method according to claim
7, further comprising:

15 (j) obtaining information about a network service
provision state of the first device, detecting provision
stoppage of a network service by the first device based
on the network service provision state information and
generating a service stoppage request;

20 (k) storing a plurality of setting information of
the first and second devices, which correspond to a
network service existed that before provision stoppage
of the network service is detected; and

25 (l) calculating a service competition relation
that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of

the network service according to both the service stoppage request and the information stored in step (e).

11.A computer-readable storage medium which stores a
5 program for enabling a computer to execute a service allocating process in a network where at least one first device which responds to a network service request and at least one second device which does not respond to the network service request and the setting of which
10 can be modified from outside are connected, the process comprising:

- (a) obtaining information about a network service provided by the first device;
- (b) specifying the second device which does not respond to the network service; and
- (c) converting a setting content of the network service received by the first device and requested for the first device to a setting content to which the second device can respond; and
- 20 (d) setting a setting content obtained by the conversion in the second device;
which
 - performs control of the setting content of the second device that does not correspond to the network
25 service by the first device, according to the network

service request received by the first device.

12. The storage medium according to claim 11, the process further comprising:

5 (e) storing setting contents of the first and second devices, which respond to previous network services; and

(f) checking a competition relation between network service requests from a plurality of users based
10 on information stored in step (e), adjusting the competition relation, and determining the setting contents of the first and second devices so as to respond to a network service to be provided.

15 13. The storage medium according to claim 11, the process further comprising:

(g) selecting a device for providing a higher function of a requested network service, of the first and second devices which are connected to the network,
20 and determining a communications route through which the selected devices are connected; and

(h) comparing a communications route used prior to a new network service request with a communications route determined by the priority route selecting
25 section.

14. The storage medium according to claim 13, the process further comprising:

5 (i) determining a communications route suitable for provision of the new network service based on a comparison result obtained by the route comparing section,

which

10 performs control so that the new network service can be provided, using a communications route determined in step (i).

15 15. The storage medium according to claim 12, the process further comprising:

15 (j) obtaining information about a network service provision state of the first device, detecting provision stoppage of a network service by the first device based on the network service provision state information, and generating a service stoppage request;

20 (k) storing a plurality of setting information of the first and second devices, which correspond to a network service before provision stoppage of the network service is detected; and

25 (l) calculating a service competition relation that is modified by the detected provision stoppage of

the network service, according to both the service stoppage request and the information stored in step (e).